

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 31, 2003 has been reviewed. Claims 7, 21 and 25 have been amended. Claims 7-16 and 21-26 are pending, and are respectfully submitted for reconsideration by the Examiner.

Claims 21-26 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,649,687 to Rosas et al. ("Rosas") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,362,185 to Kadner. Claims 7-10 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Rosas in view of Kadner, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,002,318 to Koch. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 21 and 25 have been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Claims 21 and 25 each recite a purge solenoid valve assembly including a pin displacement calibration feature, and an overmolded cap defining a first cavity and a second cavity. The first cavity contiguously engages first and second flanges of a bobbin, and generally encapsulates the bobbin. The second cavity houses the pin displacement calibration feature. Support for these features is provided at, for example, page 2, ll. 17-19, page 3, ll. 11-13 and ll. 19-21, page 4, ll. 8-12, Fig. 2 and Fig. 5, of Applicant's specification as originally filed.

In contrast, as described at col. 2, line 67, and shown in Fig. 1 of Rosas, housing 30 is generally cup shaped, defining a singular cavity for housing the operational components of the valve. As described at col. 4, line 54 – col. 5, line 1, purge valve 10 is a high frequency pulse width modulated solenoid purge valve. As the duty cycle of the valve increases, coil 36 pulls armature 60 further up against the force of spring 58, and valve head 16 further away from the valve seat 22, so that the flow through the purge valve 10 is linearly proportional to the duty cycle. The duty cycle controls the distance that the valve head 16 is pulled away from the valve seat 22 so that the flow through the purge valve 10 is controlled according to the duty cycle.

It is respectfully submitted that Rosas does not teach at least the features of a pin displacement calibration feature, and an overmolded cap defining a first cavity and a second cavity, such that the first cavity contiguously engages first and second flanges of a bobbin, and generally encapsulates the bobbin, and the second cavity houses the pin displacement calibration feature.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither Kadner nor Koch overcomes the above-described deficiencies of Rosas. Kadner shows a non-return valve for high speed cycle operation (Abstract), and does not show anywhere an overmolded cap or a bobbin. Koch shows a pressure control valve for an incompressible media in an automatic transmission. As described at col. 3, ll. 35-43, and illustrated in Fig. 1 of Koch, coil 1 and coil carrier 2 are inserted into an iron jacket having stamped-out magnet sheets 4, 5 and 6. The coil, coil carrier and iron jacket are inserted into a pot-shaped housing 9 of aluminum.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21 and 25 are patentable. Claims 7-16 and 22-24 ultimately depend from claim 21, and claim 26 depends from claim 25. The dependent claims recite the same combination of allowable features recited in the respective independent claims, as well as additional features that further distinguish over the prior art. At least for the above-described reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), of claims 7-16 and 21-26, be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims (*i.e.* claim 7-16 and 21-26) are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

Dated: February 2, 2004

By: 

Peter J. Sistare

Registration No. 48,183

CUSTOMER NO. 009629

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20004

202-739-3000